

Y GADWYN (The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

February/Chwefror 2019

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DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

MOMENTS FROM THE SERVICES OF JANUARY

Rev. Rob Metcalf started the year on Jan. 6th with a sermon based on *The Other Wise Man* by Henry Van Dyke, an American author, educator and clergyman, born in 1852 in Pennsylvania. The story introduces a fourth wise man who does not make it to Bethlehem with his three colleagues to see Jesus because he is waylaid by various people in distress, whom he has to help. He meets Jesus only on the day of his crucifixion. However, he has in fact met him throughout his life "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matthew 25:35-40)



Pam Evans explaining Christingle

With the new year barely started church life at Dewi Sant took an unexpected turn courtesy of our furnace. It stopped working before the Jan. 13th service and as parts could not be found in time for Sunday and the weather forecast was -10° C, the church was closed and services cancelled. It would be interesting to know how many times that has happened in the past. It would also be interesting to know how old the furnace is....

Fortunately all was in working order for the following Sunday which included communion led by Rev. Stratton and the Christingle service as well as the Congregational Meeting. Rev. Lyn Stratton serving communion



The purpose of the Congregational Meeting was to approve the candidate, the Rev. Liz Mackenzie, for the position of minister as put forward by the Search Committee. The congregation developed



Ministry Articulation Profile in August 2017, the position vacancy was posted on the United Church Vacancy website in April 2018, and finally after almost a vear of work, the Rev. Mackenzie was approved at the CM on January 20, 2019. As part of the CM the call was changed from a Full Time Minister to an Appointment an Intentional Interim Minister (IIM).

Lynella Reid-James, liaison from the United Church, Mabel Hastings, recording secretary for the CM, and Anna Dunets, Chair of the Search Committee, at the CM

Rev. Mackenzie recognises that the congregation needs to develop a plan to address the future of the church, and that is especially what an IIM does. Rev. Mackenzie will be with us starting March 1, 2019 until June 30, 2022 for this purpose. At the CM the Official Board was also tasked with identifying a small group of people to serve on the Transition Team with Rev. Mackenzie. However all members of the congregation, and those interested in supporting Dewi Sant, will be asked to participate in the workshops and other events looking at the transition.

Rev. Liz comes to us from the Saskatchewan Conference where she served as the Conference Personnel Minister. She has several degrees including Doctor of Ministry, Masters of Divinity, an MBA, BEd and BA. She has served as the Minister of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care in

Melrose United Church, Hamilton; Beach United Church, Toronto; Cawthra Park United Church, Mississauga; and Bailieboro-Springville Pastoral Charge, Peterborough. She also taught in the NWT and ran her own consulting business. While not Welsh, Rev. Liz Mackenzie has an Icelandic background from Manitoba and so has an understanding of immigrants and the ensuing language and cultural loss in the generations after immigration. We are a lucky church to have her as our new minister.

Anyone looking for more information on Rev. Liz should contact Anna Dunets (the editor of Y Gadwyn – see end of this newsletter).



Jan. 27th was another Special Music Sunday lead by members of the congregation. We were joined by members of the Korean Beacon Church who share our church premises. Several readings such as Psalm 98, were in English and Welsh as read by Oli Hoffman.



Hefina Phillips

The theme of the service was the marriage of words and music. Hefina Phillips led us through the selections providing history and meaning for the words and music and the following notes are hers: Our literature is overwhelmed with exquisite poems. But what happens if a composer in love with those words attempts to put them to The result is an music? amazing and unforgettable "marriage" that continues to thrill and inspire indefinitely.

(We sang Wele'n sefyll rhwng y myrtrwydd by Ann Griffiths to the tune Cwm Rhondda and Merched Dewi then sang it using a modern tune by Linda Gittins.) For Merched Dewi our favourite example of the perfect marriage of words and music is Pantycelyn's passionate love poem "Rwy'n edrych dross y bryniau pell" written in the late 1700's and the hymn tune Hiraeth written in the 20th century by Daniel Protheroe. William Williams Pantycelyn is the best known Welsh hymn writer.



Merched Dewi

The words begin with Pantycelyn searching for someone that he loves, waiting every hour for that person to appear. He uses the word "Fy Anwylyd" (my Love/Lover) which clearly shows the relationship between the writer and the Lord. *Y Tangnefeddwyr* is a poem written Waldo Williams, who as a pacifist, wrote these words after seeing Swansea in flames after horrendous bombing during the Second World War. He remembers his peace loving parents and invokes the Beatitudes as he repeats Blessed are the peace makers for they are the children of God - Gwyn eu byd y Tangnefeddwyr, blant i Dduw. The music was written by Eric Jones at the beginning of the 21st century and it immediately became a #1 hit with choirs throughout Wales. (We also played a video of Llanddarog Choir singing this song).

In addition to his regular accompaniment, Matthew Coons our organist played excerpts from "Kyrie" from the *Premiere Livre D'Orgue* by N. de Grigny. Prior to playing he discussed the piece – nice to see Matthew in the pulpit.



Two soloists performed. Sheryl Clay-Newelll sang Robat Arwyn's *Benedictus*. Robat Arwyn's is the most prolific composer in Wales today and his works are sung world-wide. He is especially admired this side of the Atlantic. The words "Benedictus qui venit in nomine patri - Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord - Bendigedig yw'r hwn sydd yn dyfod yn enw'r lôr" - are from the prayer sung during the Catholic Mass. Sheryl later sang Y Nefoedd which was written by the



Rebecca Gibson

Welsh poet leuan accompanied by a tune written by J. Osborne Roberts. Rebecca Gibson was our other soloist and also sang some solo parts with Merched Dewi. Rebecca sang The Gaelic Blessing. In 1978 Rutter adapted the words of an ancient Gaelic rune to which he added a line mentioning Jesus and added the word Amen thus converting it to a Christian anthem. It became popular in 2003 when a recording of it by Aled Jones was released. Due to the gentle nature of the text and melody it has become popular at Christenings, weddings and funerals.

WELSH SERVICES/ Y GWASANAETH CYMRAEG

There will be a planning meeting for the Welsh services in 2019 on February 17 at Dewi Sant Church after the morning service. This is open to anyone who is interested in preparing the services – you do not have to be a Welsh speaker.

A NOTE FROM GRETL DAVIES

Gretl would like to thank the many church members who came to see her and got in touch via phone or email. She also appreciated the flowers which were sent to me from the church. AS she writes: "For each and every one who encouraged me with their kind words, I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

After the shocking death of her oldest grandson, Cameron Davies, in December Gretl developed severe pneumonia which required two weeks in the hospital and subsequent discharge to the AMICA on Steeles West. Gretl will be at AMICA for at least another 4 weeks into March. We hope and pray that she will be able to return home and perhaps join us for a service in the not too distant future.

The Editor

A NOTE FROM OLWEN DUNETS

I would like to thank all who attended my 100th birthday party in January. It gave me great joy to renew so many acquaintances. Thank you for your good wishes and many remembrances. I enjoyed Rev. Cerwyn Davies' composition for this occasion – new words to the hymn tune "How

Great Thou Art". Thank you especially to all my family and friends who organised and managed the event. It was a wonderful party and I was glad to see so many people having a good time. For those who have asked and still ask how I have made it to 100 years, I would say again: Cael, o iawn iechyd, calon hapus (have good health from a happy heart). This is something that I wish for all of you.

Olwen Dunets

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note that John and Loes have moved from Quebec to Ontario. New address is:

John Watcyn & Loes Williams 27 Via Vistana, Alliston. L9R 0C5 Email: jww.3442@gmail.com

514-512-9189

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WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

LLYFYRFA (WELSH NOVEL EXCHANGE)

Welsh language speakers and Welsh language students have limited access to current Welsh publications in Toronto other than via the internet. There is no opportunity to peruse a Welsh language book before purchasing. At the same time, thanks to the commitment of those who have taught Toronto Welsh classes past and present many residents have been introduced to Welsh language literature. Of course members of *Dewi Sant* share books with friends on an informal basis. However it seems timely to widen the circle and establish a book sharing process on a more structured basis. You may have noticed the presence of neighborhood book exchanges in recent years. These Book exchanges are sometimes located on a front lawn such as in Cabbage town or on public land and parks in the Beach and Mississauga. Why not adapt this trend and establish a Welsh book exchange at *Dewi Sant*.? The intent is to circulate **Welsh language novels**. Donations will be limited to recent Welsh novel publications. The exchange will operate on an honour system – books to be signed out and exchanged on a timely basis. Of course access to the book exchange will be limited to times when the Church is open for services or for Welsh language classes (Friday evenings and Saturday mornings when John Otley, Welsh language instructor is present). If you have recent Welsh novels or novels written for "dysgwyr", let me know. Please discuss your donations **before** bringing the books to the church. We need to maintain an inventory and to avoid complaints of clutter. Books will be selected on the basis of relevance to the readership.

The term *Llyfyrfa* means "a place of books". The Welsh term for *library* is *llyfyrgell*. This project is named "Y *LLyfyrfa*".

Gobeithio y medrwch gefnogi y L*lyfyrfa*. Croeso I unrhyw un fenthyca llyfrau neu gyfrannu nofelau cyfoes yn y gymraeg. Efallai fod gennych gynllun gwell? Medrwch roid eich barn yn y *Gadwyn* neu drwy gysylltiad personol. Y bwriad yw cychwyn y Llyfyrfa fis Mawrth.

Oli Hoffman

YET ANOTHER WELSH CAKE RECIPE!

There used to be a large Welsh community in Welland, Ontario, halfway between Lakes Erie and Ontario in the Niagara Penninsula. One of those was "Ma" Smith, Maggie Smith, a Welsh speaker originally from Sir Fon / Anglesey. One of her outstanding talents was her recipe for Cacen Gri as she called them and, although she passed away some 40-ish years ago, they continue to delight many. I brought some to Olwen Dunets' 100th birthday party, and several people asked for the recipe so here it is.

First, a few comments.

- Lard, shortening, and margarine have no place in this recipe; only butter will do.
- There are no spices used not even cinnamon or nutmeg as the butter really is the star.
- Raisins can be used instead of currants but are bulkier and get in the way of the cutter a bit
 more. Currants may be soaked in hot tea in advance to plump them up a bit; this seems
 to be something of a farmhouse kitchen tradition as you see it suggested for Teisen Lap,
 Bara Brith, and other fruity delights. Just pat them with a paper towel so you don't add too
 much extra moisture to the mix.
- When you roll it out, you might use a mixture of flour + white sugar to flour the surface instead of straight flour.

So, here's the recipe:

Mix together
2 cups of self-raising flour OR 2 cups Cake & Pastry flour + 1 tsp of baking powder
3/4 cup of white sugar
1/4 tsp of salt

Cut in 1/2 lb of butter with a pastry cutter. You can also do this with a food processor but do not grind it to a powder; a bit 'pebbly' gives a better finish. Add the currants. Add 2 beaten large eggs. Don't worry if it feels a *bit* sticky.

Roll out on a floured surface to 1/4" thick and cut in rounds. Bake on a frying pan or griddle until the tops go from shiny to dull and the underside is golden; flip and bake to a similar colour. If you have an electric pan/griddle, try a setting of around 300F-325F. Cool on a rack. If they're for something fancy, you can dust them with sugar, but that's rather gilding the lily.

Enjoy but when people want to place a standing order with you (naming no names, Stephen Dunets) give them the recipe instead.

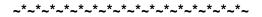
Siân Thomas

LOOKING FOR A DECORATOR FOR YOUR NEXT PARTY?



A lot of people commented on the fantastic decorations for my mother's 100th, which turned the rather blah hospitality Suite" into a birthday party room. If any reader is in need of professional expertise to decorate their upcoming "do" then you can contact the Set Designer – Rhiannon Colleen Dunets at email rcdunets@yahoo.ca or (647) 567 – 7142.

The Editor who, yes, has to admit that Rhiannon is her niece and the granddaughter of Olwen Dunets



UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. DAVID'S DAY/ DYDD GWYL DEWI

Rev. Mackenzie will be starting with us on March 1, so we except to see as many as possible on her first Sunday, March 3, St. David's Day. This will be a bilingual Welsh/English service. Please consider attending this service as a great way to start Rev. Mackenzie's new ministry with us, meet friends and remember the namesake of our congregation. If you live outside of Toronto, consider staying with over in the city for a few days. Mike and I have a spare room and would welcome anyone to sojourn with us.

Anna Dunets, member of the Board of Session; see contact at the end of this newsletter

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement which brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can learn how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. This year's theme is "Come – Everything is Ready" prepared by the women of Slovenia. The event in our area will be held on **2:00 p.m.**March 1 at St. Leonard's Church, 25 Wanless Avenue, Toronto.

The World Day of Prayer traces its roots to the 19th century when Christian women of Canada and the United States became involved in missions at home and worldwide. Since 1812, women have encouraged one another to engage in personal prayer and lead communal prayer within their mission groups. On October 19, 1918, Presbyterian women in Canada called together representatives of five Women's Missionary Boards – Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian – "to promote the spreading of Christ's kingdom through united prayer and action." That first inter-church meeting gave birth to the Interim Committee on the Federation of the Women's Missionary Society Boards of Canada, which organized a national and inter denominational day of prayer on January 9, 1920.

GOOD FRIDAY AND THE GYMANFA GANU

This year the Good Friday Service on April 19 at 3:30 p.m. will be followed by the Gymanfa Ganu at 7:00 p.m.. We have decided to return to the tradition of having dinner in-between the two events but this year it will be catered. Because of this we will need to have fairly accurate numbers of those planning to attend. Please contact Nest Pritchard at 416-923-2392 or npritchard38@gmail.com and Risti Jensen at 416-225-8186 or risti.jensen@gmail.com to book your dinner and to enquire about cost.

The afternoon service will be led by our new minister, the Rev. Liz Mackenzie. The conductor of the Gymanfa Ganu will be William Woloschuk, who is also the conductor of the Welsh Male Voice Choir. Please plan to attend this event as it will be the first time for Rev. Mackenzie to see and to hear this Welsh tradition. If you need transportation to these events contact your Board of Session representative.

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL April 26-28

Please join us at the Ontario Welsh Festival in London

Book your room at: **DoubleTree by Hilton 519 439 1661**

www.doubletree3.hilton.com

Special rates for festival attendees: \$125 per traditional room

Apologies: Incorrect rate quoted in last Gadwyn

Those of us that attend the annual **Ontario Welsh Festival** (Gwyl Gymreig Ontario) are eagerly looking forward to this year's event in **London**, **Ontario**, **April 26-28**, headquartered at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, in downtown London.

We hope you will come and join us.

The visiting Male Voice Choir from mid-Wales, **Côr Machynlleth**, is a relatively young choir, with many of the members being in their 30s. It was established in October 2014, to compete at the 2015 National Eisteddfod, where they were awarded second prize in the Male Voice Choir section at the 2015 Eisteddfod, and again at the 2016 National Eisteddfod. This paved the way for a very special and successful year in 2017, winning the Male Voice Choir section in the Côr Cymru (Choir of Wales) competition on S4C TV Channel; being awarded first prize in the Male Voice Choir section at the National Eisteddfod in Anglesey, and singing the national anthem ahead of the Wales v New Zealand rugby international at the Principality Stadium, Cardiff. You can hear clips on their Facebook page, but WOW, we are really looking forward to listening to them live, in concert, on **Saturday, April 27 @ 8:00 p.m. at First St. Andrew's United Church at 350 Queens Ave.**

A tour of Labatt's Brewery is planned for early Friday afternoon. It is one of Canada's oldest and most successful breweries. A guided tour of 1.5 to 2 hours walks you through a fully operational brewery. Watch some of the world's finest beers being made, a blend of ancient and modern skills and technologies - and of course there's samplings. At the Hotel you will be welcomed with a cup of tea with Welsh Cakes and Bara Brith, complete with harp entertainment - and let's not forget the "Noson Lawen" in the evening. Were you at last year's? – it was brilliant!

The "Say it in Welsh" Workshop – following the <u>AGM</u>, which we hope you will attend on Saturday morning - is extremely popular, and thoroughly enjoyed by the participants, An opportunity to both practice and learn a few Welsh greetings. For the afternoon Alison has arranged a Documentary/Film called "Y Chwarelwr", and also a movie "Y Streic a Fi" – a charming film in Welsh with English sub-titles. In between events visit the Marketplace for the goods on offer. Highlight of the Saturday evening Banquet will be a presentation of the annual Gold Award - **this year's recipient is Donna Morris**, which will be followed by the Choir Concert at First St Andrews United Church.

You have hopefully marked your calendars. We'd love for you to join us for the whole Festival. Register before March 25 for reduced cost. Registration Forms will be available on our web-site in February. To receive a Registration Form by mail, please email your mailing address to: registrar@ontariowelshfestival.ca

For further information check our website: www.ontariowelshfestival.ca

ALSO Alison Lawson of the Ottawa Welsh is managing the Silent Auction table at the Marketplace this year. If any reader has an item that they could donate to the Silent Auction let Alison know at alisonlawson@rogers.com. If you are attending the Festival, you can bring the item with you at that time. If not, and the item (well-marked as to its intent) can be brought to Dewi Sant, I will see that it gets to the Festival. They can also contact me at <a href="mailto:mailt

DONATIONS TO Y GADWYN OR HOW ABOUT EMAIL?

Please contact the Editor if you wish to receive Y Gadwyn by email. If you want to keep using paper we are also looking for donations to cover the postage. Thanks to the donors in the recent past who include: Iona Rees, Margaret Nowell, Bill and Mary Hall, Cerwyn & Nora Davies, Laverne Horner, John Jenkins and Harold Rowland.

Please send all donations payable to Dewi Sant Welsh United Church (with a note it is for Y Gadwyn) and to the church Secretary, Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, 33 Melrose Avenue, Toronto, M5M 1Y6.

CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS

Anna Dunets, Editor. Email: adunetswills@gmail.com or 416-485-4074. Please send in your contributions by February 28 which is the cut-off date for submissions to the next issue.

